

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL Claims 3 and 4 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Please AMEND Claims 1, 2, 5, and 15 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reading a plurality of film originals, each being mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus in a plurality of orientations, and displaying the plurality of film originals on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the method comprising:

an image reading step of:

(i) reading each of the plurality of film originals placed on the original support,
(ii) identifying a number of frames of film originals simultaneously present on the original support, and
(iii) cutting out image areas for each of the frames of film originals to generate a plurality of image signals;

a placement orientation detection step of detecting a placement orientation for each of the plurality of film originals ~~as to whether it is landscape or portrait~~, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of [[an]] each image signal, ~~corresponding to each film original~~, generated in said image reading step;

a display orientation setting step of setting a display orientation for the plurality of image signals, from among:

(i) a landscape orientation,

(ii) an orientation where each of the plurality of image signals is rotated by a predetermined angle regardless of the placement orientation for each of the plurality of film originals detected in said placement orientation detection step, and

(iii) an orientation corresponding to the placement orientation for each of the plurality of films originals detected in said placement orientation detection step;

[[an]] an image signal rotation step of executing in accordance with the display orientation set for the plurality of images signals in said display orientation setting step:

(i) a first image signal rotation [[step]] of rotating each of the plurality of images signals to be in the landscape orientation, the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the corresponding film original detected in said placement orientation detection step is different from the landscape placement;

(ii) a second image signal rotation of rotating each of the plurality of image signals by a predetermined angle irrespective of the placement orientation detected in said placement orientation detection step, or

(iii) no image signal rotation; and

a read image signal display step of simultaneously displaying the plurality of image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit in the landscape placement according to the display orientation set in said display orientation setting step and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said display orientation step may also select (iv) a predetermined orientation, as the display orientation for the plurality of images signals, and said image signal rotation step may further execute (iv) a third

image signal rotation of rotating each of the plurality of image signals to be in the predetermined orientation, in accordance with the display orientation set in said display orientation step further comprising a display orientation setting step of setting a predetermined orientation.

3-4. (Cancelled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim [[3]] 1, wherein said second image signal rotation step further includes, upon after rotating each of the plurality of read image signals by the predetermined angle during the second image signal rotation in said image signal rotation step, correcting its an inclination of each of the plurality of read image signals is corrected with respect to a vertical or horizontal direction.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in said image reading step, a plurality of originals placed on the original support are read and the other steps are performed on an image signal obtained from each of the originals individually.

7-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A system for reading a plurality of film originals, each being mounted with a slide mount, which are placed on an original support of an image reading apparatus in a plurality of orientations and for displaying the plurality of film originals on a monitor unit of a computer connected to the image reading apparatus, the system comprising:
an image reader for:

(i) reading each of the plurality of film originals placed on the original support,
(ii) identifying a number of frames of film originals simultaneously present on the original support, and [[for]]

(iii) cutting out image areas for each of the frames of the film originals to generate a plurality of image signals;

a placement orientation detector for detecting a placement orientation for each of the plurality of film originals as to whether it is landscape or portrait, based on lengths in horizontal and vertical directions of [[an]] each image signal corresponding to each film original generated by said image reader;

a display orientation setting unit for setting a display orientation for the plurality of image signals from among:

(i) a landscape orientation,

(ii) an orientation where each of the plurality of image signals is rotated by a predetermined angle regardless of the placement orientation for each of the plurality of film originals detected by said placement orientation detector, and

(iii) an orientation corresponding to the placement orientation for each of the plurality of film originals detected by said placement orientation detector;

an image signal rotator for executing in accordance with the display orientation set for the plurality of image signals by said display orientation setting unit:

(i) a first image signal rotation of each of the plurality of image signals to be in the landscape orientation rotating the image signal to be in a landscape placement, when the placement orientation of the corresponding film original detected by said placement orientation detector is different from the landscape placement

(ii) a second image signal rotation of rotating each of the plurality of image signals by a predetermined angle irrespective of the placement orientation detected by said placement orientation detector, or

(iii) no image signal rotation; and

a read image signal display for simultaneously displaying the plurality of image signals on one display screen of the monitor unit ~~in the landscape displacement according to the display orientation set by said display orientation setting unit~~ and in a form of a thumbnail type display.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the plurality of image signals displayed on the monitor unit are images of the plurality of film originals.

17. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 15, wherein the plurality of image signals displayed on the monitor unit are images of the plurality of film originals.